



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

3001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3001
Tel 919-733-7011 • Fax 919-508-0951
Steven Jordan, Director

Division of Medical Assistance

2501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2501
Tel 919-855-4100 • Fax 919-733-6608
Craig L. Gray, MD, MBA, JD, Director

October 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
Local CFAC Chairs
NC Council of Community Programs
County Managers
State Facility Directors
LME Board Chairs
Advocacy Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
State CFAC
NC Assoc. of County Commissioners
County Board Chairs
LME Directors
DHHS Division Directors
Provider Organizations
NC Assoc. of County DSS Directors

FROM: Dr. Craig L. Gray
Steven Jordan *SS*

SUBJECT: Special Implementation Update #81: Selection of the Next LME to Participate in the 1915b/c Medicaid Waiver

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is pleased to announce that Western Highlands Network has been selected as the next Local Management Entity (LME) to participate under the State's Medicaid Waiver for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services. The waiver is commonly known as the 1915 b/c waiver in reference to the sections of the Social Security Act that authorize such waivers.

Western Highlands Network (WHN) was selected through a formal procurement process. DHHS appointed a ten-person review team comprised of staff from the Divisions of Medical Assistance and Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and consumers and family members. The review team, with assistance from Mercer Government Human Services Consulting, performed a thorough desk review of WHN's application and conducted an on-site review. It was through this process that the DHHS selected WHN as an LME that demonstrates the skills, ability, and infrastructure necessary to successfully operate under a 1915 b/c waiver.

DHHS will now work with WHN and all stakeholders in the counties served by WHN (Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, and Yancey) to plan a successful implementation. We will be assisted in this effort by PBH, the LME serving Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties, which has been operating under a 1915 b/c waiver successfully for five (5) years, as well as Mecklenburg LME, which will begin operating under a 1915 b/c waiver in July 2011. Updates regarding this effort will be posted on our Divisions' websites at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/lme/MHWaiver.htm> and <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/waiver/index.htm>.

Unless noted otherwise, please email any questions related to this Implementation Update to ContactDMH@dhhs.nc.gov.

cc:	Secretary Lanier M. Cansler	Lisa Hollowell
	Michael Watson	Shawn Parker
	Beth Melcher	Melanie Bush
	DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team	Pam Kilpatrick
	DMA Deputy and Assistant Directors	John Dervin
	Jim Slate	Kari Barsness
	Sharnese Ransome	Lee Dixon